

SHINE RELIEF TRUST - MALAWI WINTER 2015 NEWS

Supporting Grandmothers in Chilambe Village



Phil and Deborah met with Agnes's Grandma earlier this year during harvest time. She was collecting ground nuts surrounded by the local children. Agnes's Grandma is a "grandma" to the whole village. She loves to sit with the children on her lap when she is not farming and tell them stories.

Like many families we visit on a regular basis, Grandma relies on groceries provided by Shine Relief. With no other relatives, Grandma has to grow or find her own food; the pile of ground nuts she harvested in May have long since gone and school fees are due. Her health can waver and the lack of funds means she needs help with essential household repairs - the roof is already letting in water but an iron roof is out of the question for this family. Agnes is growing quickly, her shoes and uniform are already too small. Suzen and Grandma commit all these needs to God. She needs very little as she leads a simple life. The main prayer is to remain strong and healthy so she can provide for her Granddaughters future. She thanks God for her new bed-net which protects her and her Granddaughter as they sleep at night.

Books arriving later this month will cause great excitement and Agnes for one is looking forward to visiting Shine's Library. Helping families access the resources needed to get a better education will improve their children's skills helping them to make the steps out of poverty.



Early Childhood Development

Shine Early Years Group, at Shine Village, assists young children (0-5 years) particularly those who are vulnerable and affected by HIV/AIDS. Children come from villages in Kuntumanji; for some it can be a very long walk. Before Shine Relief began in 2010 most families did not send their young children to an Early Years group. A child's value was based on what they could do in the home; assisting with chores, fetching water and farming the land are tasks done from an early age. However mothers are now learning the importance of introducing education to their young ones through play; and attitudes are changing towards education. CBO groups supported by Shine are now in their 5th year. After a long time without any support they are now able to feed, teach and care for more children and identify the most vulnerable for special attention, which Shine helps to provide for.

Floods and Food Security

Due to erratic weather conditions each year many do not harvest enough from their small plots of land to feed their families. 8 families currently receive monthly provisions to supplement their tiny stores. In the New Year we will start a number of projects at Shine land to help diversify food sources in the area. Poultry and Fish farms will be established as businesses generating income for Shine Village and also providing much needed sources of protein for children, especially those living with HIV.

Unika Christmas JOY We are offering Shine supporters the opportunity to partner with us to get the project off the ground. A sustainable source of protein will help support the effective use of ARV's which some of the children take on a daily basis. Buy a Christmas card this year to supply eggs for Shine. Each card contains a voucher which provides a hen at Shine Village!

Sandal making at Shine Village

The development of new businesses is key to Shine Village becoming self-sustaining and teaching new skills to support community Income Generating Projects is now underway at Shine Village. Suzen has sourced materials and trainers to start the project in Chilambe and some of the teenagers had a trial run at sandal making over the summer. We plan to look into grant making to help get this and other projects off the ground.

An Open Day to be remembered!

Local groups who work hand in hand with Shine Relief came together with over 400 children, students, staff and volunteers to celebrate the past 5 years achievements. Shine Relief's Director Suzen Zidana reflected on a year with many challenges ... "together with support from Shine Relief supporters in the UK we have helped so many and continued to develop Shine Village..."



"Over 1000 people entered through our gates throughout the day – people came running from everywhere to see what was happening! We had so many activities going on for all ages – netball, games, the early years children's party and maize distribution. We wanted to also give the donated items to the community during this season so we invited Zomba Hospital and the Group Village heads men to receive food, clothes and blankets. The people enjoyed watching the presentation projected onto the wall – many asked how we made the wall move! It was a very busy day and we thank God that we could bless so many!" Suzen Zidana.



Shine Early Years Group

Thank you for helping to strengthen this community.

Through Shine's assistance children and students now have access to better education, healthcare and child protection services and emergency aid has reached the most desperate. Shine Centre has become a beacon of hope... Zikomo Kwambiri!

